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system of languages below the inflected class so that it may be made possible to coordinate the large mass of vocabularies. Nothing can be more clear than that these vocabularies result in clouding confusion so long as the collectors are wholly untrained in the grammatical life of the speech of isolation and agglutination.

WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

Anthropological Report on the Ibo-Speaking Peoples of Nigeria.

By Northcote W. Thomas. Part I: Law and Custom of the Ibo of the Awka Neighbourhood, S. Nigeria. 161 pp. Maps, ills., index. Part II: English-Ibo and Ibo-English Dictionary. vi and 391 pp. Part III: Proverbs, Narratives, Vocabularies and Grammar. vi and 199 pp. Harrison & Sons, London, 1913. 9 x 6 each.

These volumes, with the companion study of the Edo (*Bull.*, Vol. 44, p. 697) by the same author, illustrate the growth of the difference in European attitude toward the affairs of Africa. From the same region we note the first essay toward the comprehension of the African, the slim pamphlet published in Boston under mission auspices more than two generations ago, the grammar and vocabulary of the Yoruba. Ibo and Edo are now seen to be rather considerable language groups included within the area formerly classed as Yoruba, and so far as we may determine from the evidence which Mr. Thomas has presented in these very satisfactory dictionaries, the differences between Ibo and Edo on the one hand, and on the other between these languages of the lower Niger and the true Yoruba of its upper course, are far greater than may be assigned to dialectic variety. As in the case of his former study of the Edo we are impressed by the author's caution in his record of Ibo life and custom. In every note of manner and custom he is sedulous to differentiate that which he has seen, the interpretation which he makes of the thing seen, the explanation which he has received from his Nigerian companions and a further comment upon the evidential value of such testimony. The method does not make for a smooth and entertaining narrative, in fact the result is remarkably arid; but the veracity of these notes is so highly substantiated as to serve as the best apology for the absence of pictorial value. Students of folk lore will find in one of these volumes a great treasure of animal life. The principal hero is the tortoise, but the myth series is clearly of that kingdom of sentient beasts which has been introduced to this country by servile Africans and which only lately has been considered worthy of collection and study.

WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

ASIA

Studies on the Vegetation of the Transcaspian Lowlands.

By O. Paulsen. The Second Danish Pamir Expedition. Conducted by O. Olufsen. 279 pp. Map, ills. Gyldendalske Boghandel, Copenhagen, 1912. Kr. 4. 10 x 7.

Work of this character passes far beyond the botanical record upon which it is based. It is really the study of the vegetal control of secular geographical mutation. It is regarded as so important that one of the major projects of the research authorized by the Carnegie Institution is the maintenance of a desert laboratory in Arizona and the conduct of expeditionary investigation in the more characteristic desert formations of the world. We prefer to examine this interesting treatise in reference to this phase of geographical study. Transcaspia is a margin of that central Asian desert which we find reason to believe has been for centuries advancing upon the area of filth. In several recent works such as Sir Aurel Stein's "Desert Cathay" and Tate's "People of Seistan," we have abundant evidence that man recoils from the struggle with the aeolian advance of the desert; the whole theme has been carefully treated by Ellsworth Huntington in his study of desiccation which, debatable in some details, is commonly accepted in general. Here we find the direct evidence of the struggle of nature to resist the march of the desert, the development of resistant qualities in vegetation which may cope with desiccation and the loss of humus, the root search for water of the underflow

and stem toleration of the efflorescent salts, the binding of shifting masses of sand. In so far as the agencies at work are vegetal this work is botanical, but in the result accomplished the work is a close study of the factors which establish geographical land forms.

WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

An Outline History of China. Part 2: From the Manchu Conquest to the Recognition of the Republic, A.D. 1913. By Herbert H. Gowen. 216 pp. Index. Sherman, French & Co., Boston, 1913. \$1.20. 8 x 5½.

As noted in the review of the former volume (*Bull.*, Vol. 45, p. 695) Professor Gowen selected the fall of the Ming dynasty in the middle of the seventeenth century as the demarcation between ancestral and modern China. In this final volume is embraced the whole span of the Manchu empire from the accession of the infant Shun Chih to the downfall of the infant Pu Yi. From its start to its finish the Manchu hold upon the dragon throne has been the feeble clutch of baby hands, the real rule has been exercised by palace favorites and scheming captains of a turbulent military. Regarded as a whole, the plan of the work is excellent, it outlines the history of a large yet never great empire, it furnishes the framework upon which the student may adjust the greater works which deal with episodes of Chinese history.

Die chinesische Weltanschauung. Dargestellt auf Grund der ethischen Staatslehre des Philosophen Mong-dse. Von Heinrich Mootz. x and 205 pp. Ills. Karl J. Trübner, Strassburg, 1912. Mk. 4. 8 x 6.

The Mong-dse of the title is better known under his latinized designation of Mencius, the successor of Confucius. The propriety of sacrificing such little stock of information as exists in Caucasian minds associated with the name Mencius merely to conform with one of the Chinese vernaculars is problematical. If the same effort were made in the case of Melancthon and Erasmus we should consider the loss irreparable. The author in addressing a popular audience has dealt very wisely with the philosophy of Mencius, essentially a homespun thinker offering rules of propriety to a people whose instinct has crystallized through ages of such teaching to a passion for self-control in the mass. He has selected with no little care the most characteristic of these apothegms, has translated them with considerable appreciation of their social value and has added comment to each group of dicta which shall serve to express the passage from the sometimes cryptic aphorism to its employment in the affairs of life and their good conduct. Of course there is much in the philosophy of Confucius and Mencius which escapes our sympathy even if we may acquire it in rather cold comprehension, but Mr. Mootz has selected for this volume only those rules of life which manifest a strong appeal to our common humanity. The result is quite satisfactory as an introduction to the manner of Chinese thought.

WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

K'eng Tschì T'u. Ackerbau und Seidengewinnung in China. Ein kaiserliches Lehr- und Mahn-Buch. Aus dem Chinesischen übersetzt und mit Erklärungen versehen von O. Franke. vi and 194 pp. Ills., index. *Abhandl. Hamburg. Kolonialinst.*, Vol. 11. L. Friederichsen & Co., Hamburg, 1913. Mk. 20. 12 x 9½.

We have here a very sympathetic handling of one of the great Chinese classics whose history is traceable to the middle of the twelfth century. Dr. Franke presents the Chinese text with a clear translation and a reproduction of the traditional pictures. In itself a great and valuable work the author has added a wealth of critical and illustrative material which amply serves to introduce this important work to the Occidental mind with an appreciation of the part which it has played in developing the culture of China. Thrift is but the first of the virtues which it inculcates, the wise use of all the materials which are ready to hand, the correction of waste. It teaches by daily lessons the value of industry and the importance of working early and late. Text and picture show the part which each one in the household must perform in the field and in the warm room where the silkworms hatch and spin; the children are taught what service they must render to lighten the work of those